
From: Marilyn Waters **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:49 AM
To: 404Assumption-FL
Cc: Marilyn Waters
Subject: Florida Request to Assume Section 404 Program Docket EPA-OW-2018-0640

Mr. Kelly Laycock

Oceans, Wetlands and Stream Protection Branch USEPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

As a 40-year resident and property owner in Brevard County, Florida I believe strongly that the economic future of Florida will be seriously diminished if the EPA grants the State of Florida's request to assume the responsibilities for administering the Section 404 program due to insufficiencies in the State's plan. Our economy is based on tourism and quality of life – both of which significantly depend on healthy waters and natural recreation areas - both coastal and inland. Our Indian River Lagoon, bordering five counties in eastern Florida, has an annual economic impact valued at \$7.6 Billion. It is already under threat due to decades of pollution, destruction of wetlands and over-development in areas near the waterways.

If you cannot refuse this request, then I urge you to extend your current rushed schedule of making a decision by December 17, 2020 by at least 180 days to allow meaningful public review and comment which has been impossible by the short time frame during an extraordinary time of national crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Florida DEP cannot handle its current workload, due the state government's removal of 550 key positions since 2011, resulting in insufficient monitoring and enforcement.

Florida is experiencing a development frenzy right now and once we lose the benefits of our wetlands, we will never be able to recoup them.

Thank you,

MJ Waters

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